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SUPERMAN
IN ACTION COMICS
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AGAINST THE POWER OF
SHAZAM!
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YOU LOOK GOOD FOR A DEAD CHICK, LANE.
MY MORTICIAN DOES QUALITY WORK, WHAT CAN I SAY? TAKE A DEAD GIRL'S MONEY FOR INFO?
FROM HER DEAD HAND IF NEED BE. HEH... WHAT'S THE HEADLINE?
IT'S A LITTLE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, BUT I NEED A LEAD ON WHO TRIED TO KILL SUPERMAN...
...MERC NAMED ENCANTADORA SLIPPED HIM A MICKEY. A NANOBOT CARRYING KRYPTONITE PAYLOAD --
THAT'S HARD CORE SILICON, LO. THE LOGISTICS OF TELEMETRY ALONE PUT YOU IN A LEAGUE WITH JOHN IRONS OR LEX LUTHOR --
DEAD ENDS. WHO ELSE?
GOD? HEY, IS IT TRUE THE PARASITE DRAINED YOU --?
RENEGE ON A DEAL, YOU TAKE THE HIT.
THAT'S POLICY... BUT TO HIRE DEATHSTROKE --
LANE, YOU PUSH THIS ROCK OVER, YOU'LL FIND BUGS THAT BITE. IN YOUR CONDITION --
SUCH SYMPATHY FROM THE MAN WHO STAMPED A DEAD CAT TO MY DOOR BECAUSE I ASKED A SIMPLE QUESTION. TALK TO ME.
NO BUZZ YET, PERRY. THE ADDRESS 'DORA GAVE WAS A BUST, BUT I'M FOLLOWING UP THE --
OF COURSE I FEEL OKAY...
WHO AM I? JIMMY WITH A TOOTHACHE? I DON'T NEED THE DAY OFF! I NEED YOU TO HOLD OPEN PAGE ONE FOR MY STORY!
AND WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE -- MY SHADOW?!?

"O, Captain, My Captain!"
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JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"If you love something, set it free... though there's something to be said for keeping it on a nice high shelf under some glass, too."
-- Clark Kent, Daily Planet. June 2000
YOU?!?
SORRY SORRY SORRY.
SUPERMAN?
SORRY.
HI.
SORRY.
WAITER, WE'D LIKE A PRIVATE BOOTH, PLEASE... TO TALK.
2

I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN GUATEMALA.
I AM, TECHNICALLY... OR AT LEAST CLARK KENT HAS CHECKED INTO HIS ROOM AND IS TAKING A NAP --
FORGET YOUR SUIT AGAIN?
NO. MY LAPTOP.
YOU MEAN THE ONE I PACKED FOR YOU? THAT'S TALENT.
MY NOTES?
VEST POCKET. BACKUP ON AFOREMENTIONED LAPTOP.
TOOTHBRUSH?
YOU WERE SPYING ON ME.
"SPYING" MAKES IT SOUND SO... LECHEROUS.
I WAS MORE "STANDING NEXT TO YOU AT A DISTANCE WATCHING WITH X-RAY AND TELESCOPIC VISION."
CLARK!
WHY ARE YOU INVESTIGATING THIS STORY?
BECAUSE THE LITTLE PLAQUE ON MY DESK SAYS, "LOIS LANE-REPORTER"?
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY LEADS RIGHT NOW. ENCANTADORA DISAPPEARED, DEATHSTROKE WAS EXTRADITED --
A REPORTER FINDS LEADS, CLARK. WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
SOMETHING BAD IS HAPPENING. TEN BLOCKS SOUTH.
SAVED BY THE SCREAM. GO ON. WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER.
YOU PROMISE NOT TO GET KILLED, I'LL PROMISE NOT TO GET KIDNAPPED, AND MAYBE WE CAN GET THROUGH THE DAY.

"TALK LATER." RIGHT. I'M THINKING CONSTANTLY ABOUT HER BEING KIDNAPPED, MY BEING POISONED...
THE BOTH OF US SO VULNERABLE. EXPOSED. HOW MUCH "LATER" DO I NEED TO TELL HER I FEEL OUT OF --
CONTROL--?
BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP
SORRY! MY FAULT! CAN'T STOP MOVING THE BLOOD IN MY EARS SO LOUD I DIDN'T SEE YOU --
WOWWOW WOW! AMAZING?! I COULD LOOK HERE ALL DAY! FAWCETT CITY DOESN'T HAVE HOVER CARS! I WOULD LOVE A HOVERCAR--
WHERE IS HE? HE SHOULD HAVE HEARD US BY NOW --
SUPER MANSUPERMAN SUPERMAN!
TAKE A CHANCE, KID! TELL YOU WHAT -- NO CASH? YOU CAN PLAY ON CREDIT...
WORD, YO! BET YOUR PHONE NUMBER!
THIS CITY IS SO... BREATHING. LIKE NOTHING THESE PIE EYES HAVE EVER SEEN IN MY HOMETOWN FOOTBALL TEAM MASCOT. ARE ALL BUILDINGS THIS TALL? ARE ALL BUILDINGS SO SMALL?
I NEED A BODY. CAN SOMEONE HELP? I SEE COLORS BREATHING.
I GOT YER BODY RIGHT HERE, YO.
YEAH, BODY LIKE A PIXY STICK, YO. SHE MEANS ME.
IS THERE A ZOO HERE? IF THERE IS, THE ICE CREAM SONATA IS MELTING IN MY EAR. BODY?
IF HE DOESN'T POP UP IN TWO SECONDS I'M GOING TO BLOW SOMETHING UP TO --
SIKE?
THIS HAD BETTER BE REALLY GOOD.
UM, YES, WELL SUPERMAN, SIR, HEH, I'M CM3, AND THIS IS MY FRIEND MARY MARVEL --
WE WANT YOUR BODY!

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WAITLETMEEXPLAIN!YOU'REALL WHACKEDOUTAND I'MMOREELOQUENT-UNDERSTRESS.REMEMBERMYS.A.T. SCORESARE--
TELL HIM ISHKABIBBLE. HATRACK.
WILL SOMEONE PLEASE --
LOOK, SIRTHETHINGISWE CAMEHERETOOOOOOOOO
GREAT. HE WENT HYPER-SONIC --
BA THOOOM
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU KIDS ARE OFFICIALLY MORE ANNOYING THAN IMPULSE.
THIS MAKES NO SENSE. THE MARVELS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO A FAULT! MY SMALLVILLE DAYS MAKE ME LOOK LIKE A DRUNKEN SAILOR BY COMPARISON!
GOT TO TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS. TALK TO ONE OF --
HIPPIEDIPPIEDOO!
UM, KID, I THINK IT'S YOU AND ME HERE.
TRY TO STAND STILL, I'M GOING TO VIBRATETOHYPER-SONICSPEED-ANDDDD
SHAKE. BABBLE AND POE!
TAG.
YOU CAN MATCH THE SPEED OF MERCURY?! WOW! I KNEW YOU'D BE ABLE TO HELP!
THANKS, BUT MEANWHILE, MY TEETH ARE ABOUT TO RATTLE OUT OF MY HEAD. PUT ON THE BRAKES AND --
I CAN'T SOMETHING'S GONE REALLY WRONG WITH US AND OUR POWERS --
ESPECIALLY CAP'S! LOOK!
CAPTAIN MARVEL?!
WEE WAANT YYOOUURRR BBODDYYY
SUPERMA... SUPERMA...

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- kick alien BUTT!

AVAILABLE AT TOYS R US

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...AND CHECK OUT THESE OTHER HOT TITLES!

E EVERYONE

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GAME BOY COLOR

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TH-THANKS, SUPERMAN. S-SORRY I WAS SUCH A DOOF BACK THERE. I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF-F --
THAT'S WHY WE'RE CHATTING AT FORTY THOUSAND FEET, KID. BETWEEN THE THIN AIR AND THE SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ABLE TO FOCUS.
NOW WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE MARVEL... INTACT?
I DIDN'T. B-BILLY AND MARY WERE COVERING A P-PROTEST AT THE FAWCETT SCIENCE PAVILION FOR W.H.I.Z. WEB-RADIO.
I WAS AT THE NEWSSTAND, HANDING MISTER MORRIS HIS WEEKLY NEWSTIME WHEN -- BAM!
ONLY I D-DIDN'T SAY MY M-MAGIC WORD.
SH-SHAZAM TIME!
GOOEY GOOEY GUMDROPS. NASDAQ.
WEIRDER THAN THAT, THE POWER OF SHAZAM WAS ALL SCREWY!
ONLY THE SPEED AND THE ST-STRENGTH KICKED ON -- TURNED UP TO A MILLION! SAME FOR MARY, I GUESS. THE WHOLE "P-POWER OF ZEUS" THING IS A LITTLE VAGUE...
HOPE SHE DOESN'T TURN INTO A S-SHOWER OF GOLD COINS OR A GOAT OR ANYTHING.
ANYWAY, I SLOW DOWN ENOUGH TO SEE LIGHT AGAIN, AND MARY SWOOPS BY WITH THE MOUTH. C-CAP'S MOUTH SAYING YOUR NAME OVER AND OVER. YOU KNOW THE REST.
HARDLY.
IT APPEARS THAT CAPTAIN MARVEL IS STILL ALIVE -- IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER -- BUT THERE HAS TO BE MORE...
WHY SEND FOR ME SPECIFICALLY?
WALASH. HALSPEC. WONDIANAH.
"WHY"? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YOU'RE SUPERMAN. YOU'RE THE BEST. WHEN SECOND TIER GUYS LIKE THE BIG RED CHEESE GET IN A JAM, YOU FIX IT.
EXCUSE ME?

IT'S NOT A SLAM AGAINST CAP, SUPERMAN.
I'M JUST STATING FACT-T.
BODY, BIRDIE?
LIKE, YOU WOULDN'T B-BELIEVE IT THIS SECOND, BUT MARY'S PRETTY MUCH A GENIUS. IT'S A F-FACT SHE SMARTER THAN ME.
JUST LIKE YOU'RE MORE POWERFUL THAN CAP! YOU'RE FASTER. Y-YOU'RE STRONGER.
YOU HAVE THE X-RAY, THE TELESCOPIC H-HEAT-BEAM EYES AND THE COLD BREATH AND --
THAT'S SIMPLY NOT TRUE, KID.
OUR POWERS ARE... DIFFERENT. I --
NOT SWEET. SOUR. BANG BANG.
D-DIDN'T YOU TURN BACK T-TIME BY FLYING AROUND THE WORLD COUNTER-CLOCKWISE?!
THAT'S BOSS!
"BOSS"? KID...
...CAPTAIN MARVEL IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES THE EARTH HAS EVER KNOWN --
RIGHT. "EARTH'S M-MIGHTIEST M-MORTAL." WELL, WHO'S SWOOPING IN TO S-SAVE THE DAY, AND WHO'S A PORTABLE PIE HOLE?
THAT'S OUT OF LINE, JUNIOR. THIS AIR'S GOTTEN TO YOU.
CAP IS JUST BILLY BATSON. HE'S A KID -- YOUNGER THAN WE ARE! THERE ARE TIMES HE DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE!
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT BY INSTINCT.
SUPERMAN IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL -- ALWAYS!
YOU'D BE SURPRISED, KID
LOOK, WE CAN COMPARE STATS LATER WHEN CAPTAIN MARVEL IS HERE TO DEFEND HIMSELF. FOR NOW, FOCUS ON THE JOB AT HAND.
FINE, I'M COOL. JUST REMEMBER..
...AT THE END OF THE DAY, BILLY'S JUST A KID, AND SOMETIMES..
...KIDSDON'TKNOWWHAT THE$!?@THEY'RE DOING.
THAT LANGUAGE ISN'T NECESSARY
@*%%# FROG.

RIBBIT
RIBBIT.
FARRAH
MET

Capture runaway cat with repairman's help.
Buy drinks to learn gossip.
Kick computer to make it work.
Player-controlled camera angles
WILD ARMS 2
What legends are made of.
EVERYONE
E
Animated Violence

"GEE, A WHOLE FORTY MINUTES... I'VE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO PURSUE A LEAD TO A MYSTERIOUS WELL-LIT BONDED AND INSURED STORAGE FACILITY WITHOUT SEEING MY SHADOW --
"--WHAT, IS MONGUL TRYING TO STEAL JUPITER?"
:SIGH: GREAT. GOING INTO SARCASTI-WITCH MODE WILL MAKE EVERYTHING JUST PEACHY, WON'T IT.
GUESS ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN SITTING DOWN FACE-TO-FACE AND SAYING
"HONEY, I THINK WE'RE HAVING RESIDUAL ISSUES ABOUT MY ABDUCTION BY A SHAPE-SHIFTING PSYCHOPATH AND YOUR POISONING BY A TOMATO IN SPRAYED-ON LEATHER."
CLARK MUST KNOW I WORRY TOO. EVERY SINGLE DAY, BUT I PUT IT IN A BOX AND JUST HOPE THAT WHEN I COME HOME FOR DINNER, HE'LL BE THERE.
CAN'T HE DO THE SAME FOR ME?
I AM GOING TO PURSUE THIS STORY. I AM GOING TO FIND OUT WHO TRIED TO KILL MY HUSBAND...
EVEN IF I AM AFRAID... EVEN IF I STILL DREAM ABOUT BEING LOCKED AWAY BY THAT MONSTER... I'M GOING TO DO IT..
BECAUSE IF I HAVE TO LIVE MY LIFE STANDING BEHIND SUPERMAN INSTEAD OF NEXT TO HIM... I WON'T BE...
LIVING...
AT...
...ALL.
DEE!
OH.
MAYBE I'LL TELL HIM TOMORROW.
UM. . YOU GUYS WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE A LAND LINE TO JUPITER, WOULD YOU?

THROW ME A BONE HERE, KIDS.. ANY IDEAS?
SUPERMA... SUPERMA...
DON'T LOOKATME! THISWASN'THERE WHENILEFT.
ALL RIGHT. KID, YOU ROUND UP THE CIVILIANS BEST YOU CAN AND HERD --
DOYOUTHINKHE MEANTTODO THAT?
SPANKY TIME!
THWIPPOP
KRAKOOM
AT LEAST NOT WITHOUT A LITTLE DINNER FIRST. I HAVE A REP TO UPHOLD.
?
:HNNGH: SNEAKY DEVIL, AREN'T WE? WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HEARD ABOUT ME, FROG...
...BUT I DON'T KISS LIKE THAT ON THE FIRST DATE.

--AND PUT THE FROG DOWN *LICKETY SPLIT!*
SCHLIPT
WAIT-- I'M NOT CUTTING *THROUGH* IT-- I'M *SEPARATING* IT INTO--
FROGS! LOTASLOTSA *FROGS!*
SEE?! I *TOLD* YOUSUPERMAN WOULD *SAVE THE DAY!* WHYDIDN'T *CAP* TRYTHATMOVE? HUH? *HUH?*
FROGS. I'M FIGHTING FROGS INSTEAD OF PROTECTING MY *WIFE.* *ENOUGH.* I'M SHUTTING THIS THING *DOWN.* THEN I'LL FIND THE MORON *BEHIND* THIS AND *FORCE* HIM TO --
MARY!
STOP! BODY BOY! *WAIT!* YOU SANK MY *BATTLESHIP.*
MARY, GET BACK! I HAVE *EVERYTHING* UNDER *CONTROL!*
NOT THE FINAL ANSWER, REGIS!
I KNOW YOU'RE *CONFUSED* --
-- BUT I *HAVE* TO TAKE OUT THE FROGS SO WE CAN *HELP* CAP WITHOUT *INTERRUPTION.*
THE HIP-HOP COMMUNITY WILL NOT GO DOWN SILENT, *DIG?* FIGHT THE MAN-- THE *MAN--*
MARY, *PLEASE.* IT'S ALREADY *RE-FORMING.* I'M GOING TO CREATE A *VORTEX* AROUND THE CREATURE AND *BLAST* IT APART--
I *PROMISE* I'LL DEPOSIT THE FROGS SAFELY IN A *SWAMP--*
BEANCURD! -:HRR:- MOUTH? *OUT OF ORDER.* LISTEN. PUFF --
LET'S GET *PHYSICAL!* BODY TALK! LET ME HEAR YOUR BODY-- *TALK!*
-:URK:-
SCHLIKT
MARY, LEAVETHEMAN*ALONE* ANDWATCHHOW*AREAL HERO* HANDLESTHINGS! TAKEHIMOUT, SUPES!
RASSUM FRASSUM. BOYS. -:SIGH:- PLAN *F.*
STOP. LOOK. *LISTEN.*
MARY! YOU'RE FLYING THE WRONG WAY! THE FROG IS GOING TO--

GOOD GOD.. MARY, I'M SORRY. YOU FLEW IN SO FAST, I--
LISTEN NOW? BODY BOY? SPLIT DECISION --
DRAMA QUEEN.
OW.
ISSHEDEAD?! MARY?MARYIGOT YOURLEG--WHAT HAPPENED?!
I... I DON'T KNOW. WHEN THE TONGUE HIT ME NOTHING HAPPENED, BUT --
BINGO.
BODY BY... KRYPTON.
BRAINS... BY... SOLOMON..
CAPTAIN AND TENNILLE... CAPTAIN AND... KRYPTON.
SUPERMAN! THETHINGIT'S GOINGTO ATTACK!
I'M MISSING SOMETHING HERE... SOMETHING OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT, MARY...
CAPTAIN MARVEL DOESN'T NEED ME... HE NEEDS MY BODY.
HOLDON SUPERMAN!YOU DON'TKNOWTHAT FORSURE!MARY'S OUTOFIT!YOUCAN HANDLETHEFROG! CAPHADHIS CHANCE!

HE NEEDS TO GET BACK IN CONTROL OF THIS SITUATION..
HE NEEDS CONTROL OF... ME.
GOOD BOY. ONE SHOPPING LIST LEFT.
SAY YOUR NAME.
SUPERMAN?
OH. DUH.
SHAZAM!

THANK YOU.
WHOA.
THIS IS THIS IS.. WOW.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. WELCOME TO MY WORLD, SUPERMAN.

I APOLOGIZE FOR CO-OPTING YOUR BODY LIKE THIS, BUT I APPRECIATE THE HAND.
ANYTHING TO HELP
IF THERE WAS MORE TIME, I MIGHT HAVE TRIED EXPLAINING IT --
BUT THINGS HAVE HIT CRITICAL MASS HERE. ANOTHER FEW MINUTES --
FROG'S LITTLE PROTEST IS GOING WORLDWIDE.
IS THIS... IS THIS HOW IT ALWAYS FEELS YOUR POWER?
MORE OR LESS... WELL, MORE BECAUSE OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION, BUT YOU DON'T SENSE THAT ANYMORE, DO YOU?
NO.. I CAN ONLY FEEL.. POWER. SO MUCH.
I HAD NO IDEA. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT YOU WERE CAPABLE OF.
YOU THINK THIS IS GOOD?
IT GETS BETTER.
THIS PART OF A PLAN?
DO YOU THINK I CHOSE YOU BY ACCIDENT? SOLOMON ALWAYS HAS A PLAN.
YES.. I BELIEVE HE DOES.

TH'S... IS THIS REAL? THIS IS INSIDE THE FROG? IT'S BEAUTIFUL. THE SOUNDS THE COLORS --
IN PART, ZEUS' POWER ENABLES ME TO ENTER THE UNSEEN WORLDS OF THE EARTH. HIDDEN PLACES MORTALS ARE NOT MEANT TO SEE.
GOOD GOD
CLOSE. TELLURIAN PARADIGMS COULD BE CALLED "GODS" DEPENDING ON YOUR DEFINITION.
NATIVE AMERICANS CALL THEM "SPIRIT GUIDES," THE EGYPTIANS SPECIFICALLY NAMED THIS ONE HEQT --
-- THE AVATAR OUTSIDE IS HER INTERFACE WITH THE EARTH. LAST TIME SHE SHOWED UP, THEY DOCUMENTED IT AS A "PLAGUE OF FROGS."
YEAH... I THINK I HEARD OF IT... BUT FAWCETT CITY'S AN AWFUL LONG WAY FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT...
BILLY AND MARY WERE COVERING A FAWCETT PHARMACEUTICAL PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING.
APPARENTLY THEY'VE ISOLATED A GLAND IN FROGS THAT'S USEFUL IN CANCER TREATMENTS, ONLY IT TAKES ABOUT ONE HUNDRED DEAD FROGS TO DISTILL ENOUGH GLAND FOR THREE PILLS.
THAT'S A LOT OF FROGS.
18
EXACTLY, SO BEFORE THEY COULD FINISH THEIR PRESENTATION...
... HEQT MANIFESTED AND BEGAN THE TONGUE LASHING.
SHE HIT ME JUST AS I SAID MY MAGIC WORD, SPLIT THE POWER AND TURNED ME INTO AMPHIBIAN PERFORMANCE ART.
BWAAAA
SO ALL THAT DESTRUCTION... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU -- IT WAS A --
-- PROTEST?
TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMPHIBIANS ARE PINNED TO WAX BOARDS AND DISSECTED EACH YEAR WITHOUT A THOUGHT. THIS WAS THE FINAL STRAW.
SO SHE STARTED DISSECTING US. QUID PRO QUO. HOLD ON... SHE'S READY TO TALK...
AND THEN IT HAPPENS.
ARMED WITH THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON, THE PATIENCE OF ATLAS, AND THE FOCUS OF ACHILLES, A TEENAGE BOY IN THE BODY OF A MAN DEFENDS HUMANKIND TO THE GODDESS OF ALL FROGS.
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING MORE LUDICROUS. I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING MORE MOVING.
WITH UNMATCHED ELOQUENCE, HE EXPLAINS HUMANITY'S NEEDS, OUR WEAKNESSES, AND OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE TO A THING AS OLD AS THE PLANET.
SHE RETORTS. IT'S NOT THE ACT ITSELF THAT ENRAGES HER, BUT THAT HER KIND IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED.
BRED. BUTCHERED. WASTED WITHOUT APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIFE CYCLE.
HE EMPATHIZES. IT IS A HORRIBLE THING TO BE UNDERESTIMATED, UNAPPRECIATED, FORGOTTEN.
HIS SINCERITY IS A LIVING THING. THEY SPEAK FOR AN ETERNITY UNTIL HEQT HAS BEEN HEARD AND APPEASED.
THEN THE WAR IS OVER. DIPLOMACY AND REASON SUCCEED WHERE FORCE --
-- WHERE I... SIMPLY WOULD HAVE FAILED.

HEY, KIDS! COMICS!

WHAT TIME AM IT?

BIZARRO No. 1

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HALF TIME!

If you didn't get in on the ground floor of either of those offbeat capers, NOW'S your chance to scarf up the first couple of issues and run with the pack for the rest of **CREATURE COMMANDOS** and **LAZARUS FIVE!** Remember how everyone got into The Sopranos AFTER the first and the finale aired? Well, this is the same – only **on paper!**

DC'S ONE TRUE GREEN LANTERN AND A WHOLE CORPS OF NEW GLs?

Kyle Rayner's had a tough time coming to grips with the legacy that made him the ONLY Green Lantern – but he should feel better this month, mainly because he won't be the NEWEST GL in the DCU anymore!

Scope out GREEN LANTERN: CIRCLE OF FIRE #s 1 and 2 ... **and** all five issues in between, where the new GLs team up with **Adam Strange, Firestorm, The Atom** and **Power Girl** – completing this mysterious circle!

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Download my screensaver and watch me blow 'em away. Just waddle over to CANDYSTAND.com

THAT SETTLES IT! I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS -- CAP IS THE TOP -- THE BEST --
EXCUSE ME, BUT WEREN'T YOU THE ONE CALLING HIM "SHA-LAME" LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO?
AND YOU SANG THE ENTIRE BANNANARAMA SONGBOOK OFF-KEY TRYING TO EAT ASBESTOS SHINGLES. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE CALL IT EVEN?
DEAL.
HEQT'S AVATAR COULD ONLY AFFECT ELEMENTS OF THE EARTH -- PART OF THE COSMIC CHECKS AND BALANCES. ONCE I REALIZED I WAS VULNERABLE--
YOU NEEDED SOMEONE NOT OF THIS EARTH TO ACT AS A CONDUIT TO REASSEMBLE AND REFOCUS YOUR POWER.
SEE, EVEN WITHOUT SOLOMON'S WISDOM, YOU'RE A SHARP ONE.
NOT ALWAYS. I HATE TO ADMIT THIS, CAP, BUT...
I UNDERESTIMATED YOU, ON MORE LEVELS THAN ONE. UNTIL TODAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GOOD KID WITH A BIG HEART AND A MAGIC WORD.
BUT SEEING YOU ACT SO DECISIVELY AND EXPERIENCING YOUR POWER FIRST-HAND... I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.
UNNECESSARY. IN THE END, YOU TRUSTED ME. YOU LET ME DO MY JOB. THAT SAID IT ALL.
SOMETHING I COULD STAND TO DO FOR SOME OTHER PEOPLE I KNOW.
TRUTH TOLD, I LEARNED SOMETHING TOO.
UNTIL TODAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A MUSCLEHEADED SPACE COWBOY WHO WASN'T ALL THAT SMART.
?!

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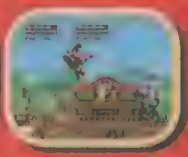

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If you see them coming… Run!

MICRO MANIACS

Codemasters

GENIUS AT PLAY

E Animated Blood Animated Violence

GOT YA. KIDDING, SUPERMAN. REALLY.
I KNEW THAT.
NO YOU DIDN'T. HEH? YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR FACE... HEH--
HEH...
AHAHAHA

METROPOLIS, THE HAPPY HOMESTEAD.
-- AND THEN I DIVE INTO THE UNDERGROUND TUNNELS TO DODGE THE ROBOTS, CRAWL HALFWAY TO SUICIDE SLUM THROUGH LORD KNOWS WHAT--
-- BEAT ONE ROBOT WITH A PIPE TO ESCAPE, AND BRIBE THREE CABBIES TO TAKE A FOUL-SMELLING REPORTER TO THE PLANET TO FILE THE STORY!
WHERE WERE YOU?!
OH, YOU KNOW. I WAS OUT AND AROUND. FAWCETT CITY. TOKYO FOR JAPANESE FOOD. GUATEMALA FOR THE RIOTS, THEN HOME.
I'VE BEEN CATCHING UP ON READING.
READING?! CLARK, DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
SURE! ACTUALLY, I FLEW BY WHEN YOU WHACKED THAT TIN CAN WITH THE PIPE. NICE FORM.
YOU WHAT?! YOU SAW ME?! AND YOU DIDN'T BUST THROUGH THE NEAREST MANHOLE AND BAIL ME OUT? I COULD HAVE--
BUT YOU DIDN'T. IN FACT, YOU SEEMED TO HAVE THINGS PRETTY MUCH UNDER CONTROL --
IT IS YOUR JOB, AFTER ALL.
MY JOB?
"LOIS LANE, STAR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER"? YOU HAVE A PLAQUE ON YOUR DESK.
YES... I DO. I DO AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
IF I CAN'T TRUST MRS. SUPERMAN TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF, WHO CAN I TRUST?
I REALLY DID KICK BUTT, DIDN'T I?
TOAD-ALLY.
END

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RE: ACTION

Dear Sirs:

I've yet to finish ACTION COMICS #764. Despite the fact that I read it five minutes ago, I am still looking at page 15. The lovely, fantastic, amazing, touching, miraculous page 15.

Millie: "They... They came here... for ME? I... I didn't know... anyone cared..."

Superman: "Little things, Millie... Little things."

Little things, indeed. Little things like the teardrops that rolled gently down my nose, off the end of it, and down onto the page. Little things like the main message of this letter: Thank you for touching me.

KEVIN MEYERS
(REDSHOES60@AOL.COM)
POSTED ON AMERICA ONLINE

We're glad the issue had such special meaning for you, Kevin, and we appreciate your sharing your feelings with us, as much as we appreciate the comments of our next letter writer...

Dear Re:Action:

Way to go, Messieurs Kelly, Kano, Rubinstein, et al., regarding ACTION #764! You certainly have made Superman's life more complicated *and* interesting. More than that, you've *humanized* him more than ever.

Of course Lois needs time away from her super-husband, after he spent many millennia with Wonder Woman a few issues back. However, the thing that virtually every married guy out there can identify with is Clark not knowing how to deal with his wife's need for space (it's taken me over 20 years, and I *still* haven't gotten it right!). Not only that, but we turned hopeful when Clark seemed to be breaking the ice at the end, getting hold of Lois's tape recorder from her very first interview with her future husband (harking back to the now-classic Byrne reintroduction of Superman)...only to have our hearts sink when Lois all but turned cold again.

Keep up the *great* work, Super-Team! (And yes, if this letter gets published, I *may* just let my wife read it...)

BRUCE KANIN
(BK9NET@AOL.COM)
NORTH MERRICK, NY

If she does read this, Bruce, you better hope she doesn't take your last line the wrong way, pal, or you may wind up occupying the doghouse Clark was livin' in!

Dear Re:Action:

ACTION COMICS #764 was a wonderful issue. I loved the way it started with Superman tearing up the Moon, even though that didn't happen until the end of the book. I really liked the way that Superman kept trying to talk to Lois, even when she didn't want to talk to him. The whole book was very artsy, and I think Joe Kelly is my new favorite writer.

JORDAN LARSEN
(SUPRMNIII@HOTMAIL.COM)
POSTED ON AMERICA ONLINE

P.S. Please have Lois get back with Clark. I can't stand it when they fight.

OK, they're back together now. But only because you asked nicely.

Dear Re:Action:

I just finished reading ACTION COMICS #764, and I must admit I was a little wary when I saw that it was an out-of-sequence tale.

However, Joe Kelly pulled it off. This issue was remarkable. Joe's trademark humor was nowhere to be found, but I have to admit that I didn't miss it this issue, which had everything: true evil, heroism, old love, good advice, drama, and pathos and, above all, spirit. This is what Superman is all about.

Now, in the lettercolumn of ACTION #764, you challenged readers to name the characters (other than Superman) that Joe Shuster created for DC. To my knowledge they were: Dr. Occult, Slam Bradley, The Star-Spangled Kid, Stripesy, Tex Thompson and Zatara the Magician. Most of these folks don't get much screen time in the DCU, but I urge the curious to pick up DC's STARS AND S.T.R.I.P.E. for high-flying, flag-waving fun every month.

PATRICK GERARD
(KRYPTOLAD@HOTMAIL.COM)
POSTED ON AMERICA ONLINE

Thanks for the feedback on the issue, Patrick, and for the STARS AND S.T.R.I.P.E. plug. Sadly, that book is ending its run with issue #14, but you can ***still*** *catch the Kid in JSA every month! Be sure to check it out, and do so with the Baldy you've won! And for all you other readers looking to earn a Baldy, become the first letter writer to tell us which of the characters Patrick mentioned actually lives in Metropolis!*

—Mike McAvennie
Can't afford the rents in the new Metropolis.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

NEXT WEEK: Insanity runs rampant in SUPERMAN #160, Part One of "Superman: Arkham!" (Loeb/McGuinness/Smith)

IN TWO WEEKS: "Superman: Arkham!" gets even crazier in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #582! (DeMatteis/Miller/Marzan, Jr.)

IN THREE WEEKS: Can anyone stop the madness of "Superman: Arkham!" in MAN OF STEEL #104? (Schultz/Mahnke/Nguyen)

IN FOUR WEEKS: It's the kooky konklusion to "Superman: Arkham!" in ACTION #769! Or is it? (Kelly/Kano/Alquiza)

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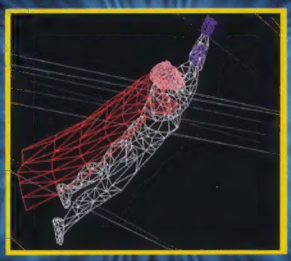

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